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logical Society. The chair was taken by Sir Napier Shaw, F.R.S.

A MEMORIAL service in honor of the late President C. R. Van Hise will be held by University of Wisconsin late in April, according to plans now in preparation. The speakers will be: Professor T. C. Chamberlin, of the University of Chicago, who will speak on Dr. Van Hise's relation to science; Dr. Albert Shaw, of *The Review of Reviews*, who will speak on Dr. Van Hise's relation to the public, and President E. A. Brige, of the university, who will speak on Dr. Van Hise's relation to the university.

DR. FREDERICK DU CANE GODMAN, the distinguished English naturalist, died on February 19.

J. J. T. SCHLÖESING, professor of agricultural chemistry in the Paris Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers, died on February 8 at the age of ninety-four years.

ANDRÉ CHANTEMESSE, professor of hygiene in the Paris faculty of medicine and inspector general of sanitary services, has died in his sixty-fifth year.

ANDREW MELVILLE PATERSON, professor of anatomy at the University of Liverpool, died on February 13, aged fifty-six years.

• THE British Association for the Advancement of Science will resume its series of annual meetings this year at Bournemouth from September 9 to 13, under the presidency of the Hon. Sir Charles Parsons.

A CONSIDERABLE fund has been given to Montefiore Home and Hospital, Gun Hill Road, New York City, the income of which is to be devoted to medical research independent of the hospital laboratory work. The selection of a director of research is at present under consideration and is in the hands of the laboratory committee.

THE ninth session of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Laguna Beach, California, will begin on June 25 and last six weeks. General courses in marine zoology, botany and entomology will be given. There are eight small private rooms for the use of special investigators. Copies of the announcement may be

obtained by writing to the Department of Zoology, Pomona College, Claremont, California.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. J. B. HURRY has offered to increase the value of the Michael Foster research studentship in physiology, founded by him at the University of Cambridge in 1912, and tenable biennially, from a hundred guineas to £200.

DR. WITHROW MORSE, of the Michael Reese Hospital at Chicago, has received an appointment as professor of physiological chemistry in the medical school of the University of West Virginia, Morgantown.

DR. EUGENE L. PORTER, instructor in physiology in the University of Chicago, has been appointed assistant professor of physiology at the Western Reserve University Medical School.

DR. FRANK J. SMILEY, has been appointed assistant professor of economic botany and assistant botanist in the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of California.

THE Manchester City Council has approved the appointment of Arthur James Turner, to the chair of textile technology in the College of Technology, Manchester. Professor Turner will be assisted in conducting the work of his department by colleagues who are practical experts in various branches of the textile industries.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

"OLD AGE" OF CHEMICAL ELEMENTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In his presidential address Professor Richards discussed the interesting problem of radioactive lead.¹ The present conception regarding the structure of atoms and the theory of electrons seems to indicate that the chemical elements may be subject to "old age." According to this hypothesis "common" lead possessed eons ago, probably at the time of the formation of the earth, an atomic weight of 206.08 and density of 11.27 and by slowing up in the speed of its electrons increased its

¹ SCIENCE, 49, p. 1, 1919.